

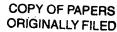


PTO/SB/21 (08-00) Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. Application Number 09/904,179 [RANSMITTAL Filing Date 07/11/2001 **FORM AHLGREN** First Named Inventor for all correspondence after initial filing) Group Art Unit N/A N/A **Examiner Name** Total Number of Pages in This Submission 37 Attorney Docket Number 050US1 **ENCLOSURES** (check all that apply) Assignment Papers After Allowance Communication Fee Transmittal Form (for an Application) to Group Fee Attached Appeal Communication to Board Drawing(s) of Appeals and Interferences Licensing-related Papers Amendment / Reply Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) After Final Petition **Proprietary Information** Petition to Convert to a Affidavits/declaration(s) **Provisional Application** Status Letter Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Other Enclosure(s) (please Extension of Time Request Address identify below): Terminal Disclaimer **Postcard Express Abandonment Request** Request for Refund Information Disclosure Statement CD, Number of CD(s) Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) Remarks Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53 SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT Firm Jonathan Spangler Individual name Signature Date 07/11/2002 CERTIFICATE OF MAILING I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on this date: 07/11/2002 Michael Mancuso Typed or printed name

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07/11/2002

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Application Serial No. 09/904,179 Attorney's Docket No. 050US1



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| In re: Patent Application of |) | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Daniel K. Ahlgren |) Group Art Unit: N/A | → |
| App. Ser. No. 09/904,179 |) | RF C 37 |
| |) Examiner: N/A | CE CE |
| Filed: June 11, 2001 |)) | MAI MAI |
| For: STACKABLE INTERLOCKING |) | 2002 1. R |
| INTERVERTEBRAL SUPPORT SYSTEM |) | 001 |
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited as First Class Mail in the United States Postal Service and addressed to: Box IDS, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, US Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, D.C. 20231 on this date:

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98

Box IDS Assistant Commissioner for Patents US Patent and Trademark Office Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

The references cited on attached forms PTO/SB/08A are being called to the attention of the Examiner. Copies of the references are being submitted via First Class Mail. A copy of the corresponding PCT Search Report is also enclosed herewith. It is respectfully requested that the cited references be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and the references be made of record therein and appear among the "references

Application Serial No. 09/904,179 Attorney's Docket No. 050US1

cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

As provided for by 37 CFR 1.97(g) and (h), no inference should be made that the information and references cited are prior art merely because they are in this statement and no representation is being made that a search has been conducted or that this statement encompasses all the possible relevant information.

Applicant believes that <u>no fee</u> is required for submission of this statement, since it is being submitted prior to the First Office Action. However, if a fee is required, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fee from the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-2040. Please deduct any additional fees from, or credit any overpayment to, the abovenoted Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

NUVASIVE, INC.

Bv:

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July 11, 2002